



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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March 29, 2016

FB16-025

NOAA Fisheries Announces the 2016-2017 Recreational Fishing Season for Black Sea Bass in the South Atlantic Region

NOAA Fisheries announces the 2016-2017 recreational fishing season for black sea bass in the South Atlantic Region will start on April 1, 2016, and end on March 31, 2017.

Landings in the past three fishing years have not come close to the 2016-2017 annual catch limit of 1,001,177 pounds whole weight; therefore, black sea bass will be open for the entire April 1, 2016-March 31, 2017, recreational fishing season.

This announcement is in compliance with the final rule for Regulatory Amendment 14 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region, which published on November 7, 2014 (79 FR 66316). Regulations were effective on December 8, 2014.

For the black sea bass recreational sector, the final rule for Regulatory Amendment 14 revised:

- The recreational fishing year for black sea bass from June 1 through May 31, to April 1 through March 31.
- The black sea bass recreational accountability measure to have NOAA Fisheries announce the length of the recreational season for black sea bass annually in the *Federal Register* prior to the April 1 recreational fishing year start date based on when NOAA Fisheries projects the recreational sector's annual catch limit will be met.

For more information on the final rule for Regulatory Amendment 14, please follow this link to the Frequently Asked Questions:

http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2014/reg_am14/index.html